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E.O.
5-14-03

PATENT

Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 05711.0122

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
Ryoichiro UEHARA et al.) Group Art Unit: 3677
Application No.: 09/963,577) Examiner: J. Brittain
Filed: September 27, 2001)
For: BUCKLE)

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MAY 06 2003

GROUP 3600

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination of the above application, please amend the claims as follows:

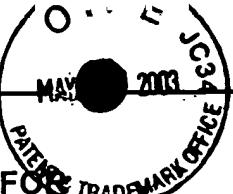
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**REQUEST FOR TRADEMARK OFFICE
CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)
TRANSMITTAL**

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000 provides for continued examination of a utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995.

See The American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA)



13/Request for RCE
L0
5-14-03

Application Number: 09/963,577

Filing Date: September 27, 2001

First Named Inventor: Ryoichiro UEHARA

Group Art Unit: 3677

Examiner: J. Brittain

Attorney Docket Number: 05711.0122

Attorney Customer Number: 22,852

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

Note: 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d) instead of a RCE to be eligible for patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See "Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice," Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (March 20, 2000). Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47 (April 11, 2000), which established RCE practice.

1. Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114:

a. Previously submitted

- i. Consider the amendment(s)/reply after final under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 previously filed on _____.
- ii. Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____.
- iii. Other _____

b. Enclosed:

- i. Preliminary Amendment 05/02/2003 RHARIS1 00000013 09963577
- ii. Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s) 01 FC:1801 750.00 OP
- iii. Information Disclosure Statement
- iv. Other _____

2. Miscellaneous

- a. Suspension of action on the above-mentioned application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of [number] months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) required.)
- b. Other _____

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3. Fees

a. The filing fee is calculated as follows:

- i. \$750.00 RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e)
- ii. Petition for extension of time for (3 Months) \$520.00 - Already paid for 2 months
- iii. Other _____

b. Check in the amount of \$1270.00 enclosed.

c. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiencies in the filing fees, or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Signature of Applicant, Attorney, or Agent Required

Name: Barry D. Biddle	Reg. No.: 44,033
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Signature:	Date: 5/1/03
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Certificate of Mailing or Transmission

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, BOX RCE, Washington, D.C. 20231, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on: _____

Name: _____

Signature: _____	Date: _____
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